DC
FORBIDDEN TALES OF
DARK MANSION
20c
FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION
NO. 10
APR.
30525
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

STRANGE MYSTERIES ABOUND HERE, CHILD... DARK FORCES THAT TWIST MEN'S BODIES AND LEAD THEIR SOULS INTO TORMENT! SO, COME, IF YOU WISH--ENTER MY REALM, THE REALM OF DARK MANSION-- BUT KNOW THAT LOVE AND HATE ARE NEARLY INDISTINGUISHABLE HERE... AND A HIDEOUS FATE AWAITS THOSE WHO MISTAKE ONE FOR THE OTHER!
NEAL KALUTA
J-3061

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IF THE HORROR IN THE SWAMP WAS REALLY DAVID CONGREVE, THEN HIS MURDERERS HAD NOT ONLY KILLED HIM, THEY HAD CONDEMNED HIM TO A GHASTLY NEW LIFE! NO WONDER HE HUNTED THEM! WHAT ELSE COULD EXPLAIN...

THE MONSTER

CARL, I'M AFRAID! WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE COME BACK HERE. THIS IS WHERE WE HID DAVID'S BODY! I FEEL AS IF—AS IF HE WERE WATCHING—.

DON'T BE A FOOL! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF. WE GOT AWAY WITH KILLING HIM, DIDN'T WE? WHAT DO WE HAVE TO FEAR NOW—FROM A DEAD MAN?

STORY: JACK OLECK

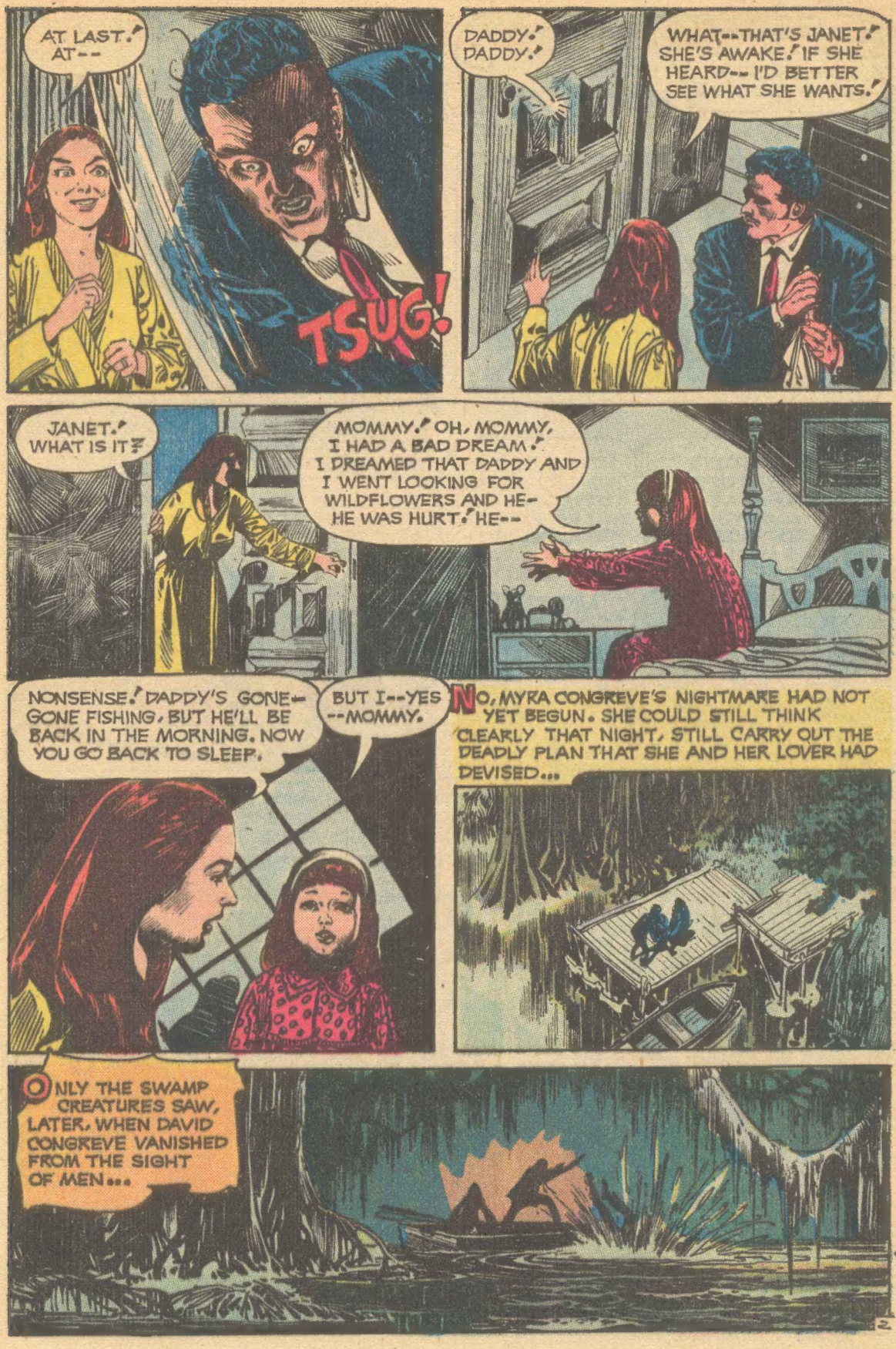
ART: TED ALCALA

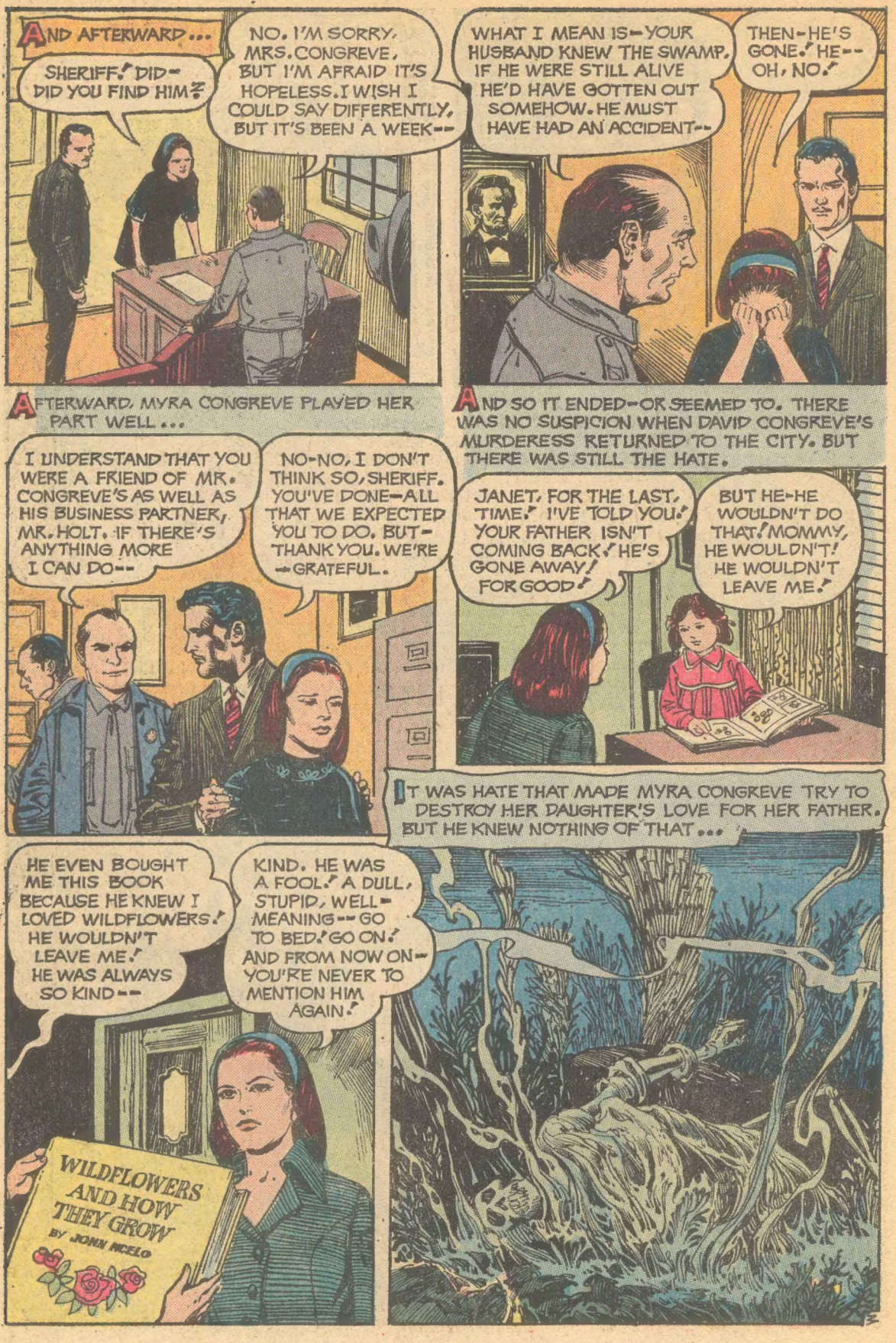
IN A WAY IT WAS IRONIC THAT DAVID CONGREVE SHOULD DIE IN THE SUMMER PLACE THAT HE HAD BUILT IN THE OKEFENOKEE SWAMP. BECAUSE HE HAD BUILT IT OUT OF LOVE AND YET HE WAS TO DIE THERE—OF HATE.

IT WAS HATE THAT DROVE HIS WIFE THAT NIGHT AND IT WAS HATE THAT WAS TO TURN HER LIFE INTO A NIGHTMARE. BUT THAT NIGHT, THE NIGHTMARE HAD NOT YET BEGUN.

HE'S ASLEEP! CARL, KILL HIM! KILL HIM NOW! I CAN'T STAND BEING MARRIED TO HIM ANY LONGER! I—

MYRA, BE QUIET! I'M JUST AS ANXIOUS TO SEE HIM DEAD AS YOU ARE! BUT IF YOU WAKE HIM, WE'LL BOTH BE IN TROUBLE!


AT LAST.! AT--
TSUG!
DADDY.! DADDY.!
WHAT--THAT'S JANET.! SHE'S AWAKE.! IF SHE HEARD-- I'D BETTER SEE WHAT SHE WANTS.!
JANET.! WHAT IS IT?
MOMMY.! OH, MOMMY, I HAD A BAD DREAM.! I DREAMED THAT DADDY AND I WENT LOOKING FOR WILDFLOWERS AND HE- HE WAS HURT.! HE--
NONSENSE.! DADDY'S GONE- GONE FISHING, BUT HE'LL BE BACK IN THE MORNING. NOW YOU GO BACK TO SLEEP.
BUT I--YES --MOMMY.
NO, MYRA CONGREVE'S NIGHTMARE HAD NOT YET BEGUN. SHE COULD STILL THINK CLEARLY THAT NIGHT, STILL CARRY OUT THE DEADLY PLAN THAT SHE AND HER LOVER HAD DEVISED...
ONLY THE SWAMP CREATURES SAW, LATER, WHEN DAVID CONGREVE VANISHED FROM THE SIGHT OF MEN...


AND AFTERWARD...
SHERIFF! DID-DID YOU FIND HIM?
NO. I'M SORRY, MRS. CONGREVE, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'S HOPELESS. I WISH I COULD SAY DIFFERENTLY, BUT IT'S BEEN A WEEK--
WHAT I MEAN IS-YOUR HUSBAND KNEW THE SWAMP. IF HE WERE STILL ALIVE HE'D HAVE GOTTEN OUT SOMEHOW. HE MUST HAVE HAD AN ACCIDENT--
THEN-HE'S GONE! HE-- OH, NO!
AFTERWARD, MYRA CONGREVE PLAYED HER PART WELL...
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WERE A FRIEND OF MR. CONGREVE'S AS WELL AS HIS BUSINESS PARTNER, MR. HOLT. IF THERE'S ANYTHING MORE I CAN DO--
NO-NO, I DON'T THINK SO, SHERIFF. YOU'VE DONE-ALL THAT WE EXPECTED YOU TO DO. BUT-THANK YOU. WE'RE -GRATEFUL.
AND SO IT ENDED-OR SEEMED TO. THERE WAS NO SUSPICION WHEN DAVID CONGREVE'S MURDERESS RETURNED TO THE CITY. BUT THERE WAS STILL THE HATE.
JANET, FOR THE LAST TIME! I'VE TOLD YOU! YOUR FATHER ISN'T COMING BACK! HE'S GONE AWAY! FOR GOOD!
BUT HE-HE WOULDN'T DO THAT! MOMMY, HE WOULDN'T! HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME!
IT WAS HATE THAT MADE MYRA CONGREVE TRY TO DESTROY HER DAUGHTER'S LOVE FOR HER FATHER. BUT HE KNEW NOTHING OF THAT...
HE EVEN BOUGHT ME THIS BOOK BECAUSE HE KNEW I LOVED WILDFLOWERS! HE WOULDN'T LEAVE ME! HE WAS ALWAYS SO KIND--
KIND. HE WAS A FOOL! A DULL, STUPID, WELL-MEANING--GO TO BED! GO ON! AND FROM NOW ON-YOU'RE NEVER TO MENTION HIM AGAIN!
WILDFLOWERS AND HOW THEY GROW
BY JOHN MCELO

THE THING THAT HAD BEEN DAVID CONGREVE DISSOLVED, BECAME ONE WITH THE SWAMP. AND YET, A YEAR LATER, THE HATE STILL BURNED...

CARL, MAYBE—MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME BACK HERE. I HATE THIS PLACE AND ITS MEMORIES. LET'S—LET'S GO BACK TO THE CITY.

GO BACK? DON'T BE SILLY. WHY WASTE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER HOUSE? BESIDES—IT WILL SHOW THAT OUR CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR, REMEMBER?

TAKE IT EASY. TOMOROW WE'LL TAKE JANET OUT TO PICK SOME WILDFLOWERS AND JUST ACT NATURAL—EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE. OKAY?

I--YES. YES, I-I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.

THE HATE STILL BURNED, BUT—WHAT WAS THERE TO FEAR? MYRA CONGREVE FORGOT HER FEARS, IN THE MORNING. BUT IT WAS THEN—THAT HER NIGHTMARE BEGAN.

OH, MOMMY, LOOK! THERE! I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH FLOWERS! CAN I PICK SOME? CAN I?

BUT YOU'VE ALREADY PICKED SO MANY! YOU-- OH, I SUPPOSE SO. WE'LL--

WHAT IT WAS—AT FIRST, NEITHER MYRA CONGREVE NOR CARL HOLT KNEW. THEY KNEW ONLY THAT SOMETHING HAD LIFTED THEIR BOAT AS IF IT WERE A TOY. SOMEHOW, THEY STRUGGLED TO SHORE. BUT THEN--

GOOD LORD! MYRA, LOOK! THAT THING-- IT CAN'T BE REAL--

JANET! IT'S GOT JANET! WE'VE GOT TO GO AFTER IT--

LET ME GO! CARL, THAT-- AWFUL THING TOOK JANET! WE HAVE TO FIND IT!

AND WHAT DO WE DO THEN? YOU SAW THE SIZE OF IT! NO! WE NEED HELP! WE'VE GOT TO GET THE SHERIFF. THERE'S NO OTHER WAY!

THAT DAY, MYRA CONGREVE SAW THE MONSTER FOR THE FIRST TIME. BUT ON THAT DAY, THE SUSPICION THAT WAS TO TORMENT HER STILL LAY IN THE FUTURE...

A MONSTER? I'M AFRAID YOU'VE BEEN IMAGINING THINGS, BUT WHATEVER YOU SAW— DON'T WORRY! WE'LL FIND HIM— AND YOUR DAUGHTER, TOO.

THE REAL HORROR, THE REAL FEAR, WAS TO COME LATER...

HE CAME THIS WAY, ALL RIGHT. LOOK AT THOSE TRACKS! THE SIZE OF 'EM! ANY IDEA WHAT MADE THEM, SHERIFF?

NO. MAYBE IT **WAS** A MONSTER. BUT EITHER WAY, WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND IT. LET'S GO!

ONE DAY OF TRACKING AND SEARCHING. TWO DAYS, THREE. AND THEN— IT HAPPENED!

SHERIFF— THERE! THERE HE IS! IT IS A MONSTER! IT IS!

I SEE HIM! BUT I THINK HE'S SPOTTED US, TOO! I THINK HE'S GETTING READY TO CHARGE! GET SET--

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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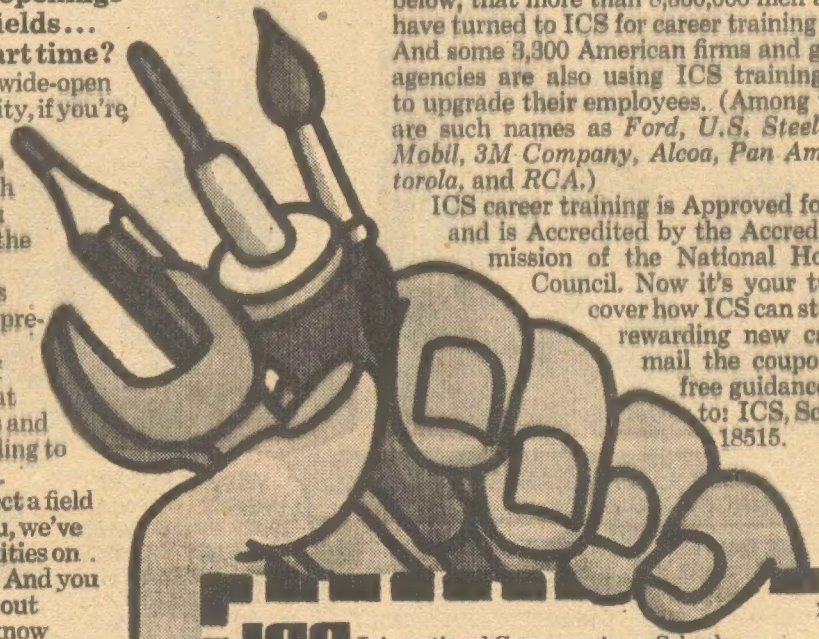

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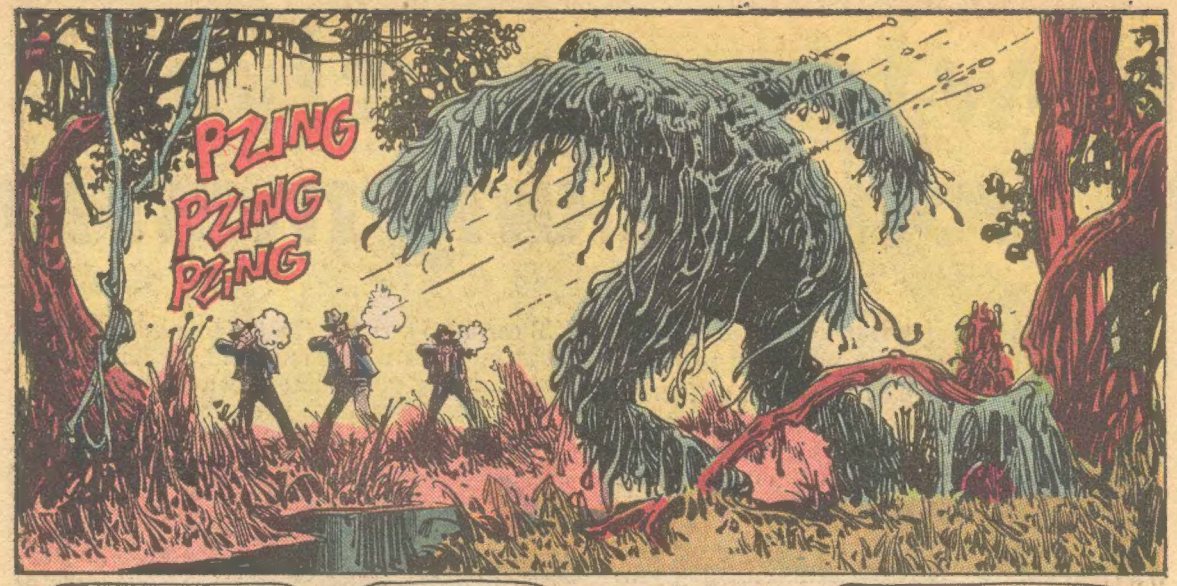
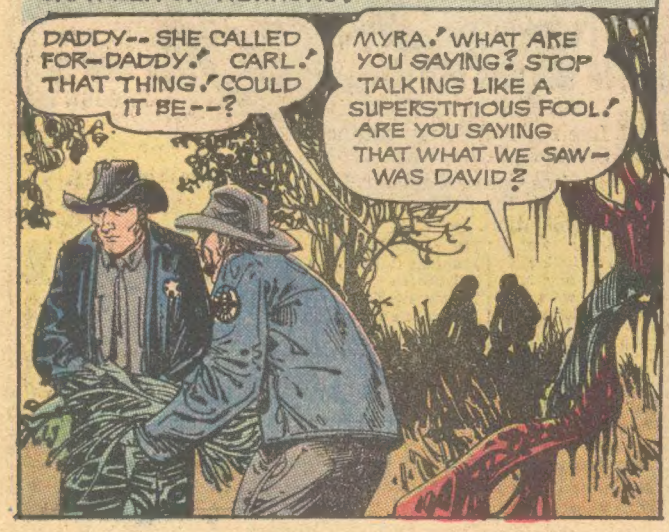


POOR LITTLE THING, SHE'S DELIRIOUS! AND NO WONDER! WE'VE GOT TO GET HER BACK TO CIVILIZATION! I'LL GET THE MEN STARTED BUILDING A LITTER.
DADDY--

ONE WORD! BUT IT WAS THAT WORD THAT WAS TO UNLOCK THE DOOR TO MYRA CONGREVE'S PERSONAL CHAMBER OF HORRORS!


DADDY-- SHE CALLED FOR--DADDY! CARL! THAT THING! COULD IT BE--?
MYRA! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? STOP TALKING LIKE A SUPERSTITIOUS FOOL! ARE YOU SAYING THAT WHAT WE SAW-- WAS DAVID?

YES! I KNOW IT'S INSANE, BUT CARL, THAT SPOT WHERE IT UPSET THE BOAT WAS WHERE WE HID DAVID'S BODY! AND WHAT BETTER WAY TO GET REVENGE THAN BY TAKING JANET?
G

I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT! BUT JANET CALLED HIM DADDY! SHE--
JANET IS DELIRIOUS! AND DAVID IS DEAD! THINGS LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT JUST DON'T HAPPEN! SO FORGET IT! BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING THAT GIVES US AWAY!
MYRA CONGREVE'S NIGHTMARE HAD BEGUN IN EARNEST. BUT AT THE START, CARL HOLT COULD STILL SILENCE HER. FOR A WHILE, SHE SAID NO MORE. BUT THAT NIGHT...
DADDY--
GROW-R-R--
CARL, LISTEN! THAT SOUND--
NO! IT'S COME BACK--
KEEP FIRING! WE'RE HURTING IT! KEEP FIRING--
GONE! IT'S GONE! IT--
BUT NOT FOR GOOD! CARL, IT WAS DAVID! IT WAS! NOW I KNOW! THAT'S WHY IT KEEPS COMING BACK! IT'S TRYING TO GET TO US! TO KILL US!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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THAT WAS WHEN THE REAL TERROR CAME. MYRA CONGREVE SOBBED HYSTERICALLY — BUT COULD SHE BE RIGHT? IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE!

IT HATES US! IT WANTS TO DESTROY US! IT—

MRS. CONGREVE! ARE YOU OKAY?

SHERIFF! YES— YES, SHE'S OKAY! BUT—SHERIFF, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? IF BULLETS CAN'T STOP IT AND IT KEEPS COMING BACK—

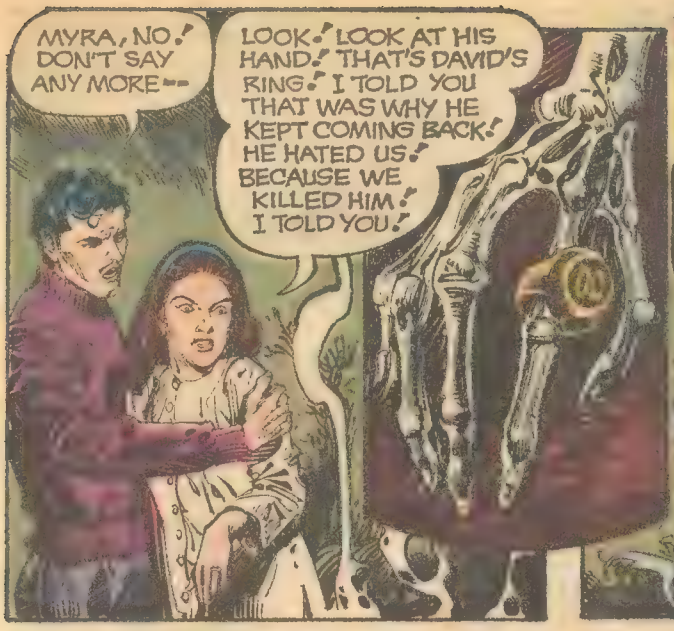
I KNOW. BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA! I KNOW SOMETHING THAT **WILL** STOP IT! SO COME ON! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO! WE NEED TORCHES! LOTS OF 'EM!

IMPOSSIBLE? OF COURSE IT WAS! AND YET CARL HOLT HAD BEGUN TO WONDER AS HE WAITED WITH THE OTHERS. UNTIL—THERE WAS NO MORE TIME FOR WONDERING...

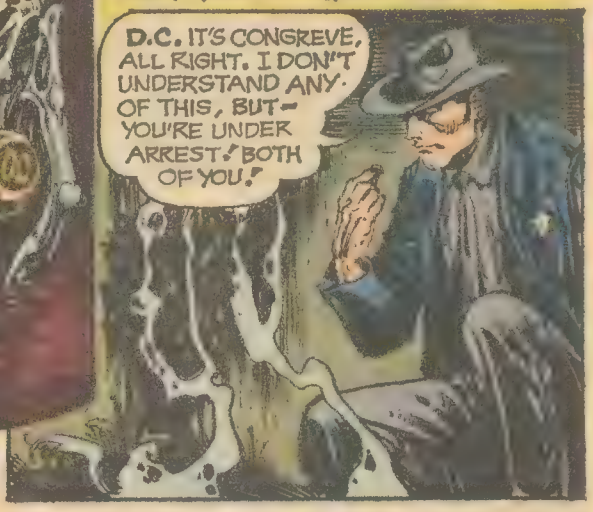
LISTEN! I HEAR SOMETHING!

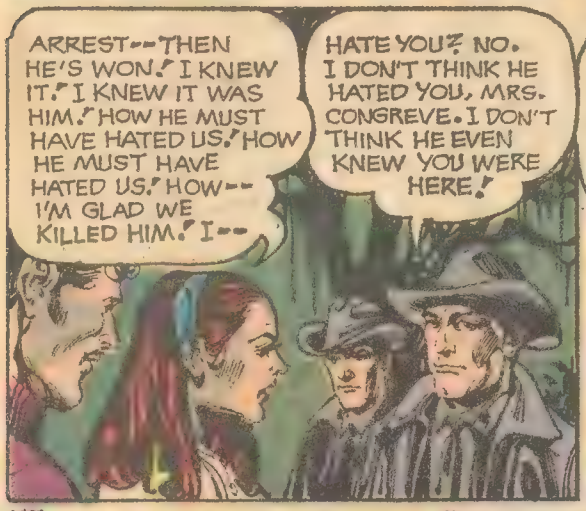
HE'S COMING! OKAY! LIGHT YOUR TORCHES! EVERYBODY! THEN SPREAD OUT! YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

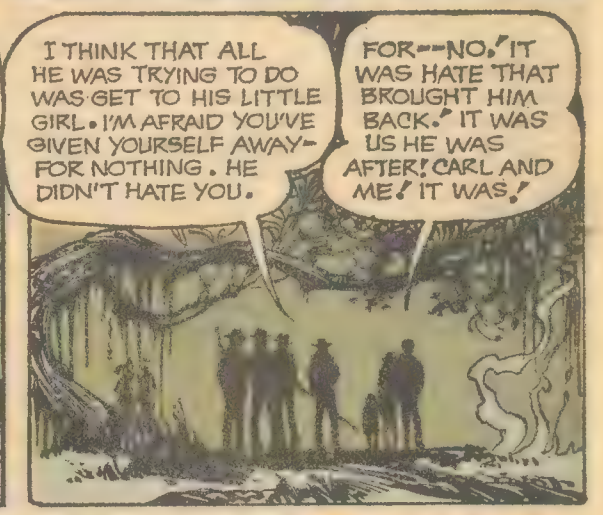
NO -- NO! DON'T!
NO! MY FRIEND! YOU'VE HURT MY FRIEND --
MOMMY! OH, MOMMY, WHY? WHY DID THEY HURT HIM? HE WAS GOOD TO ME! HE EVEN PICKED FLOWERS FOR ME! JUST LIKE DADDY! HE --
HE PICKED FLOWERS? THEN HE WAS -- HE MUST HAVE BEEN --
MYRA CONGREVE TRIED -- SHE TRIED TO CONTROL HER HYSTERIA. BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE...
GREAT SCOTT! LOOK AT THAT! ITS GOT A SKELETON! A HUMAN SKELETON!
I KNEW IT! HE DID COME BACK FROM THE GRAVE! DAVID! IT'S DAVID! JUST AS I SAID! JUST --


MYRA, NO! DON'T SAY ANY MORE--
LOOK! LOOK AT HIS HAND! THAT'S DAVID'S RING! I TOLD YOU THAT WAS WHY HE KEPT COMING BACK! HE HATED US! BECAUSE WE KILLED HIM! I TOLD YOU!

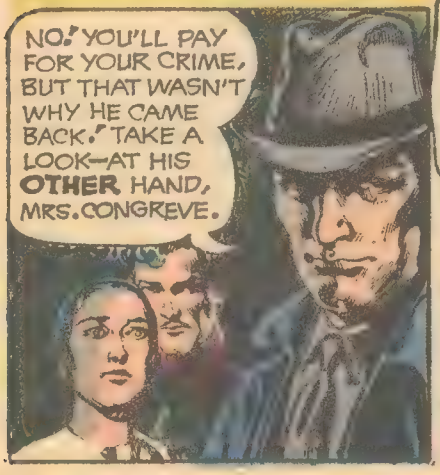
HATE! EVEN THEN, MYRA CONGREVE THOUGHT ONLY OF HATE. IT SPILLED FROM HER LIKE POISON. BUT—THE STORY WAS NOT QUITE OVER...



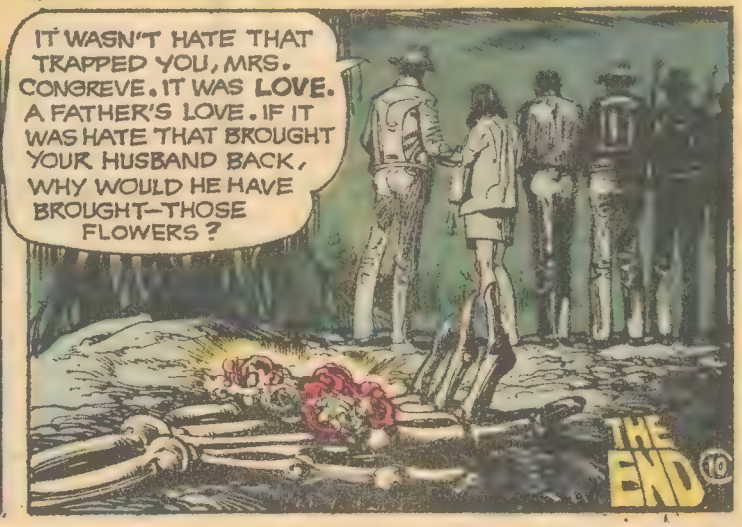

ARREST--THEN HE'S WON! I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT WAS HIM! HOW HE MUST HAVE HATED US! HOW HE MUST HAVE HATED US! HOW-- I'M GLAD WE KILLED HIM! I--
HATE YOU? NO. I DON'T THINK HE HATED YOU, MRS. CONGREVE. I DON'T THINK HE EVEN KNEW YOU WERE HERE!


I THINK THAT ALL HE WAS TRYING TO DO WAS GET TO HIS LITTLE GIRL. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE GIVEN YOURSELF AWAY— FOR NOTHING. HE DIDN'T HATE YOU.
FOR--NO! IT WAS HATE THAT BROUGHT HIM BACK! IT WAS US HE WAS AFTER! CARL AND ME! IT WAS!

NO, THE STORY WAS NOT QUITE OVER. EVEN AT THE VERY END, MRS. CONGREVE RAVED ABOUT HATE. BUT— THAT WAS FITTING, IN A WAY...



IT WAS FITTING BECAUSE IT WAS HATE THAT HAD BETRAYED HER. BUT THE HATE THAT HAD BETRAYED HER WAS NOT DAVID CONGREVE'S...


IT WASN'T HATE THAT TRAPPED YOU, MRS. CONGREVE. IT WAS LOVE. A FATHER'S LOVE. IF IT WAS HATE THAT BROUGHT YOUR HUSBAND BACK, WHY WOULD HE HAVE BROUGHT—THOSE FLOWERS?
THE END
10

Dear Witch of the Dark Mansion:

To begin with, my husband and I are well over 21 years of age. But we do enjoy our mystic comics (or whatever you wish to call them), all of them.

First off, I'm not exactly sure that my husband really believes in parapsychology, but I do, and I also believe in reincarnation.

Outside of believing in mystic happenings, I also believe that there is something outside of our world where our souls or spirits go. And these souls can come to us if we believe or need them bad enough. Thus, the origin of what we call ghosts.

And, if we are still needed after we die, our spirits come back in a different size, shape, or whatever, to go on with what is needed of us.

Now, here is where I would like to ask a question, no matter how far-fetched it may sound.

From even the scientific point of view, I cannot believe that we came from the sea, as evolutionists believe. I believe that we were put here as an experiment by people from another world (or place) and that U.F.O.'s are these people from the other world checking up on us to see how we are doing, and whether or not we are improving. Well, do you agree with my beliefs?

B. D.
Milwaukie, Oregon

Dear B. D.:

Obviously, you are one of the enlightened few. There have always been and always will be ghosts, and those of us with vision know they are always with us.

* * * * *

Dear Witch of the Mansion:

Finally, a story that captures the true essence of psychic phenomena. I am speaking, of course, of "The Blank Space," the final story in your latest issue. Although the Alex Nino art is somewhat hard to follow and the prologue page was somewhat confusing, seeming at first to be the seventh page of the previous story, the tale itself presents an accurate portrayal of an atmosphere prevalent on our college campuses today. The mystic experience detailed in this saga did not displace or destroy the collegiate aura but instead became an integral part of this aura. Such is life. There is always more than one thing going on. And, in the story, Walter was suffering from the blackouts, while still cheating on his steady girl and trying to study for a chemistry exam—all at the same time.

One question: who *wrote* the story? My first guess is Denny O'Neil. Only he could develop such well-defined characterization.

Myron Siegal
Andover, New York

Dear Myron:

Strangely enough, your question is answered in our next letter.

* * * * *

Dear Witch of the Dark Mansion:

Harold University? Wasn't that the name of the university that was completely destroyed a couple of issues back in the *House of Mystery* in Steve Skeates' charming comedy piece, "The Poster Plague"? Say, did Steve write this story ("The Blank Space") as well?

Rachel Evans
Rochester, Michigan

Dear Rachel:

Indeed he did. As for the university being destroyed, let's just say that this story took place before *the destruction.*

* * * * *

Dear Witch:

Just a short note to tell you how much I enjoy *your* approach to gothic terror. Your serious approach makes cutesy Cain and Abel look like a couple of dummies, funny animal rejects. Also, the Mike Kaluta splash-pages are beautiful. Keep it up.

Terry Spoon
Flagstaff, Arizona

* * * * *

Well, we've reached the end of another column. Just enough space left to tell you to send your letters of comment and criticism to: Through The Keyhole of the Dark Mansion, 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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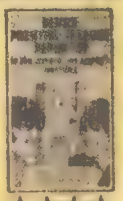

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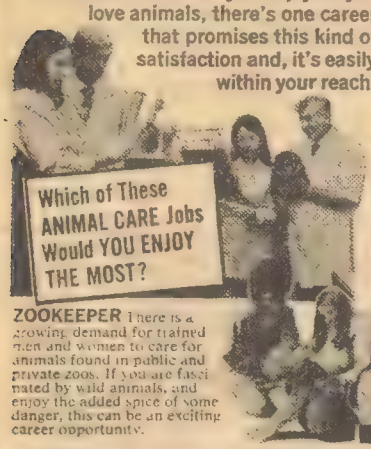

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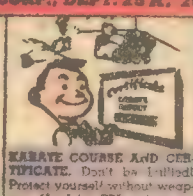

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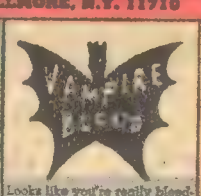

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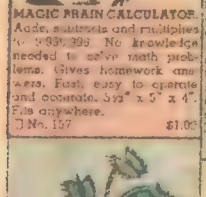

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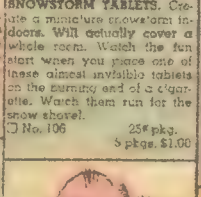

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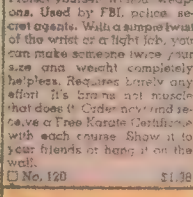

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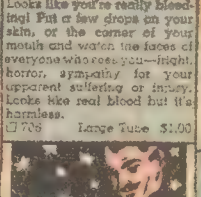

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THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT A DEPARTMENT STORE, LOOK CLOSELY AT THOSE STIFF, WAX MANNEQUINS. LOOK— AND WONDER. JUST LIFELESS DUMMIES? WELL, PERHAPS THEY ARE. PERHAPS THEY ARE NOT!
THEY WALK by NIGHT
THE DUMMIES— PETE, THEY'RE ALIVE! AND THEY'RE MONSTERS! VAMPIRES!
"IF YOU'RE TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT ALL HAPPENED, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT FRANKIE. FRANKIE WAS MEAN ...CRAZY MEAN... AND THAT'S HOW IT ALL BEGAN."
THIS—THIS IS A NIGHTMARE! TELL ME IT'S ONLY A NIGHTMARE!
I WISH I COULD!
I WISH IT WAS A NIGHTMARE! BUT IT ISN'T!
FRANKIE, DON'T! EVEN YOU WOULDN'T MUG A BLIND MAN! YOU CAN'T—
CAN'T I? JUST WATCH ME!
"YOU SEE, WE WERE ON THE BUM TOGETHER, FRANKIE AND ME. WE MADE A FUNNY PAIR, BUT WE'D MET AND TEAMED UP—
SLIGHH
F1840

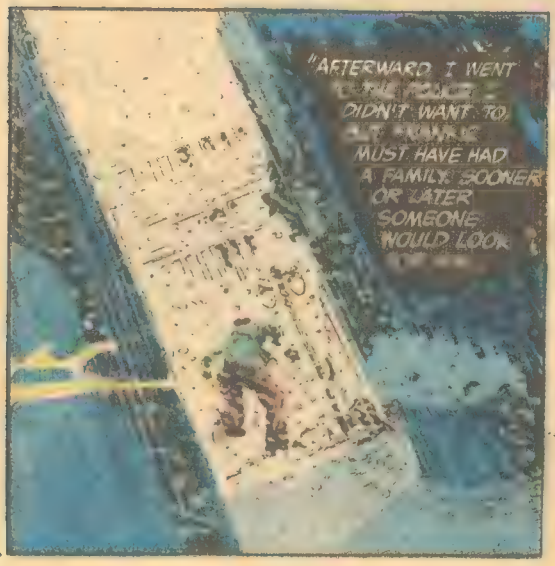
FORTY CENTS! FORTY LOUSY CENTS! THAT'S ALL THE CREEP HAD! WHAT A LAUGH!
A LAUGH?
FOR ALL YOU KNOW, YOU'VE KILLED HIM! AND FOR WHAT? I WISH I'D NEVER MET YOU! I'VE KNOWN ALL KINDS, BUT YOU—YOU—!
I LOOK OUT FOR ME! NUMBER ONE! OKAY, SO WHAT? YOU FIGURING ON TURNING ME IN?!
NO! FRANKIE, DON'T!
...I WOULDN'T DO THAT, YOU KNOW I WOULDN'T! WE—WE'RE FRIENDS!
"FRIENDS! THAT WAS ALMOST FUNNY. PEOPLE LIKE FRANKIE DON'T HAVE FRIENDS. BUT—WELL, THAT WAS FRANKIE. TAKE WHAT HAPPENED LATER..."
EAT
BEANS! COLD BEANS! OF ALL THE SLOP—
GET AWAY! GET AWAY, YOU MUTT! I HAVEN'T GOT ENOUGH FOR MYSELF!
SPUD! I DON'T KNOW WHERE FRANKIE GOT HIM, BUT THAT FUNNY-LOOKING LITTLE DOG SURE
FRANKIE, HAVE A HEART. HE'S HUNGRY.
YEAH? TOUGH! I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND—LIKE WHERE WE'RE GOING TO SLEEP TONIGHT!
SNOW, COLD—A COUPLE MORE HOURS OF THIS AND WE'LL FREEZE SOLID! AND WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THE PRICE OF A FLOP!
WE—WE DON'T NEED MONEY. I—I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE CAN GET OUT OF THE COLD. AND IT—IT WON'T COST US A CENT.

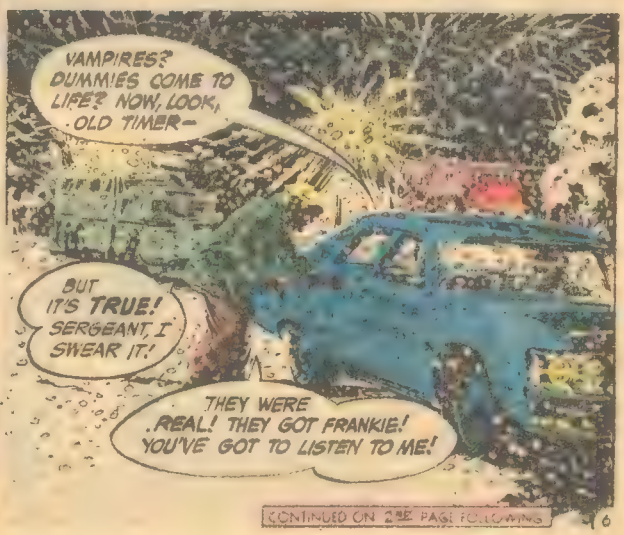
LACEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE
LACEY'S DEPARTMENT STORE! SO THIS IS YOUR FREE FLOP! YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND, YOU OLD FOOL! WE'LL NEVER GET IN!
YES, WE WILL! I KNOW A WAY...
THE LAST TIME I WAS HERE, THIS WINDOW WAS UNLOCKED...
AND THAT WAS HOW IT ALL HAPPENED. MAYBE THE WAY YOU'LL SEE IT, IT WAS MY FAULT. BUT IT WASN'T! NOT REALLY. I HAD NO CHOICE!"
COME ON! WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT INSIDE AND TAKE OFF BEFORE THE STORE OPENS IN THE MORNING!
AND LEAVE ALL THIS? MAYBE YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE BOGEYMAN, BUT I'M NOT! AND IF YOU THINK I'M LEAVING HERE BEFORE LOADING UP—
LACEY'S FINE JEWELRY
YOU'RE CRAZY!
IT WASN'T AS IF I WANTED TO TAKE
...YEAH. I-I DON'T LIKE THIS PLACE. I-I ONLY COME HERE WHEN I HAVE TO. IT'S-IT'S CREEPY. MAYBE THIS ISN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA. LET'S-LET'S GO...
WE'RE IN! WE—HEY, WHAT'S THE MATTER, PETE? AFRAID?
COME ON! WE CAN HOCK THIS STUFF FOR A FORTUNE! THIS IS LIKE A LICENSE TO STEAL! IT...
FRANKIE! LOOK AT SPUD! SOMETHING—
SOMETHING'S WRONG...
"NO. FRANK WAS NOT LIKE ME. LACEY'S DIDN'T SCARE HIM. BUT ME—WHEN SPUD GROWLED, I COULD FEEL THE HAIR STANDING UP ON THE BACK OF MY NECK."
YOU DUMB MUTT! SHUT UP, BLAST YOU! GET AWAY FROM THERE! IT'S JUST A DUMMY!
LICK

IT'S A FOOLISH THING TO SAY AT A TIME LIKE THIS, BUT THEN, I COULD STILL FEEL SORRY FOR SPUD. I WANTED TO PICK HIM UP TO COMFORT HIM. BUT—
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! YOU'RE CRAZY, YOU OLD WINO!
FRANKIE! THE DUMMY! IT-IT MOVED! I SAW IT! IT—
IT'S JUST THE YELLOW COMING OUT IN YOU! YOU AND YOUR BOGEYMEN!
!!!
IT-IT CAN'T BE! IT'S MOVING!
BEHIND YOU, FRANKIE! BEHIND YOU...!
...THE OTHERS!
YAAAAGGGAAAAA!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TERROR IS? REAL TERROR? I FELT IT THEN. I COULDN'T HELP IT. WE RAN. BUT THERE WASN'T JUST TOO MANY OF THEM!
IT-IT'S NO USE! WE-WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE! WE MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP!
TO THESE- THESE THINGS?!
NO! THEY HAVEN'T GOT ME YET! THEY HAVEN'T
AH-EAH!
HE RAN ONE WAY, AND SPUD AND I RAN THE OTHER. AND THEY FOLLOWED HIM!
NOW I SAY JIMMIE WAS CRAZY? WELL, HE WAS! BUT THIS TIME HE WAS CRAZY WITH FEAR!
...AND THAT'S WHY... I SAW EVERYTHING..."

NO! Pete!
PETE!
WHERE ARE YOU? HELP ME! PETE...!
"THAT LAST STRANGLED SCREAM OF FRANKIE'S - I GUESS I'LL BE HEARING IT FOREVER. BUT WHAT COULD I DO? I FROZE!"


"AFTERWARD I WENT TO THE POLICE. I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT FRANKIE MUST HAVE HAD A FAMILY. SOONER OR LATER SOMEONE WOULD LOOK."


VAMPIRES? DUMMIES COME TO LIFE? NOW, LOOK, OLD TIMER—
BUT IT'S TRUE! SERGEANT, I SWEAR IT!
THEY WERE REAL! THEY GOT FRANKIE! YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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"I KNEW THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! SOMETIMES, EVEN I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE. BUT I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO, AND..."
NOTHING! JUST DUMMIES!
BETTER LAY OFF THE WINE FROM NOW ON, POP. SATISFIED?
JUST DUMMIES. YOU—YES, YES, I-I'M SATISFIED...
"THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO LIVE WITH WHAT I HAD TO LIVE WITH, LATER!
LACE
"I GUESS I CRIED, A LITTLE. BAD AS FRANKIE WAS, IT WASN'T EASY TO FORGET WHAT HAD HAPPENED....I WANTED TO FORGET..."
"WHY DID I GO BACK? IT'S A HARD THING TO EXPLAIN, BUT—AFTER ALL, I WAS RESPONSIBLE, WASN'T I?"
"AND... I HAD TO MAKE SURE ABOUT FRANKIE..."
HEY, MISTER, WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
EH? OH, YOU MEAN THE CROWD?
THEY'RE WATCHING THE DOG. CRAZIEST THING I EVER SAW. SOME MUTT GOT INTO THE STORE AND WON'T BUDGE!
"PLUCKY LITTLE THING. I'D FORGOTTEN SPUD! HAD TO BE. I COULDN'T HELP FEELING A LITTLE SICK INSIDE. THERE..."
IT JUST STANDS THERE BY THAT STORE DUMMY AND SNARLS EVERYTIME SOMEBODY GETS CLOSE!
WINTER COATS $5.95
TOOK SPUD. I WAS FINE. ALL RIGHT! WAITING FOR FRANKIE.

LACEY'S WINTER COATS
"ONLY—FRANKIE WASN'T COMING BACK, AT LEAST, NOT IN DAYLIGHT!"
HE WAS ONE OF THEM NOW!!
A MAN MAY BE A VAMPIRE BY NIGHT
POOR SPUD—AND POOR FRANKIE. BUT I TOLD YOU, DIDN'T I?
FRANKIE WAS MEAN. CRAZY MEAN. AND—CRAZY PEOPLE BELONG IN INSANE ASYLUMS, DON'T THEY?
YOU SEE—THAT'S WHY I TOOK HIM TO LACEY'S. I FOUND OUT ABOUT THE DUMMIES LONG AGO!
SO NOW, EVERYTIME I MEET SOMEONE LIKE FRANKIE—THAT'S WHERE I ALWAYS TAKE THEM!
LACEY'S IS—MY PRIVATE INSANE ASYLUM! I'VE TAKEN LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKE FRANKIE TO LACEY'S!
WHY ELSE DO YOU SUPPOSE I'M STILL HERE—TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT!
DO YOU THINK THEY'D HAVE LET ME GO—OTHERWISE?
THE END

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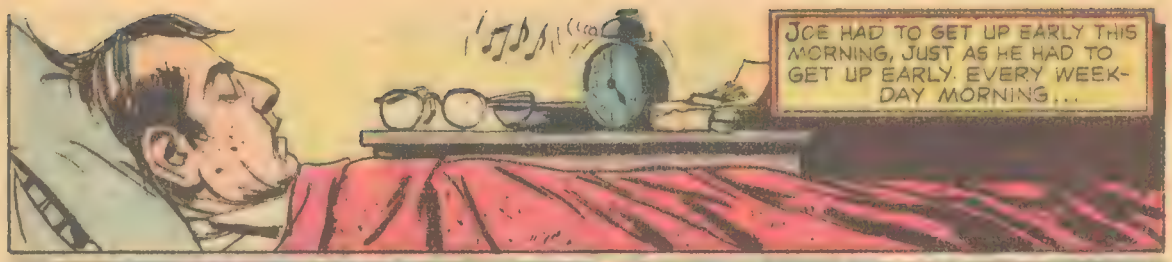
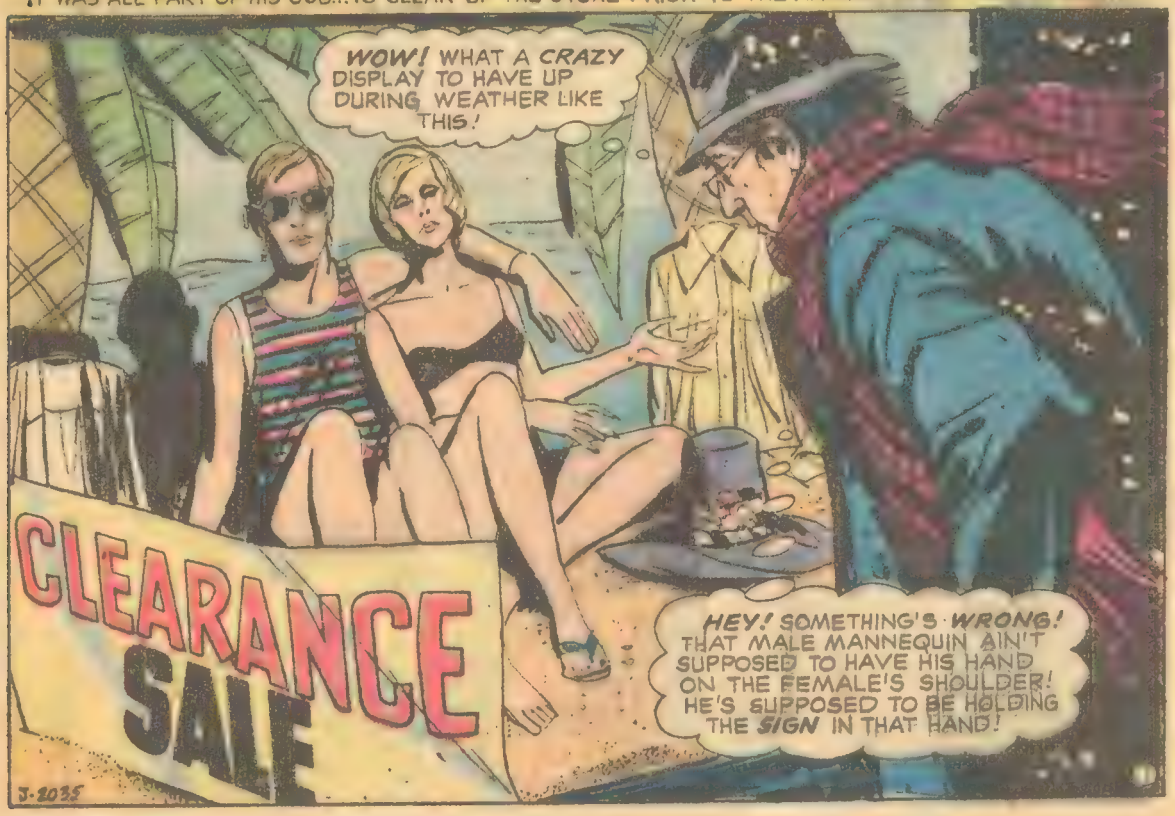


IT WAS ALL PART OF HIS JOB...TO CLEAN UP THE STORE PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF ANY CUSTOMERS...


WOW! WHAT A CRAZY DISPLAY TO HAVE UP DURING WEATHER LIKE THIS!
CLEARANCE SALE
HEY! SOMETHING'S WRONG! THAT MALE MANNEQUIN AIN'T SUPPOSED TO HAVE HIS HAND ON THE FEMALE'S SHOULDER! HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE HOLDING THE SIGN IN THAT HAND!
J-2035

CLEARANCE SALE
THERE!
AND SO, JOE WENT ON ABOUT HIS WORK...
BUT MOMENTS LATER, AS JOE'S WORK LED HIM AGAIN PAST THE DISPLAY...
WHA-?
IT...IT'S BACK THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE I FIXED IT!
DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS COULD'A HAPPENED!
BUT I GUESS THE HAND JUST COULD'A SLIPPED DOWN...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
SO, JOE FIXED THE DISPLAY AGAIN... AND AGAIN HE WENT ON ABOUT HIS WORK... BUT, MOMENTS LATER, AS HE CHANCED TO PASS THE DISPLAY A THIRD TIME...
HUNH!
HEY, NOW, WAIT A MINUTE!
2

THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS!
I HAVE A FEELING THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE IN THIS STORE BESIDES ME... SOMEONE WHO'S PLAYING TRICKS ON ME!
SO, JOE SEARCHED THE STORE, IN HOPES OF FINDING A TRICKSTER, BUT HE FOUND NO ONE...
AND WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE DISPLAY...
GRRRRR...
CLEARANCE
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO -- THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!
IF THIS SIGN FALLS OUT OF YOUR HAND AGAIN, IT'S THE INCINERATOR FOR BOTH OF YOU!
SALE
CLEARANCE SALE
WELL, YOU ASKED FOR IT! NOW, I'M --
HUNH!
3

YYYAAAARRRRGGG HHHH!
MINUTES LATER, THE STORE MANAGER ARRIVED...
THIS PLACE IS STILL A MESS!
WHERE'S THAT JOE? WHY HASN'T HE--?
JOE!
HEY, JOE!
HMMMPH! THAT JOE! DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I HIRED THAT GUY...
...HE JUST NEVER SEEMS TO BE AROUND WHEN I NEED HIM!
CLEARANCE SALE
FRANK'S
4
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAR. 22ND
THE END.

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(The following quotes from U. S. Labor Dept. point out nationwide shortage for Draftsmen)

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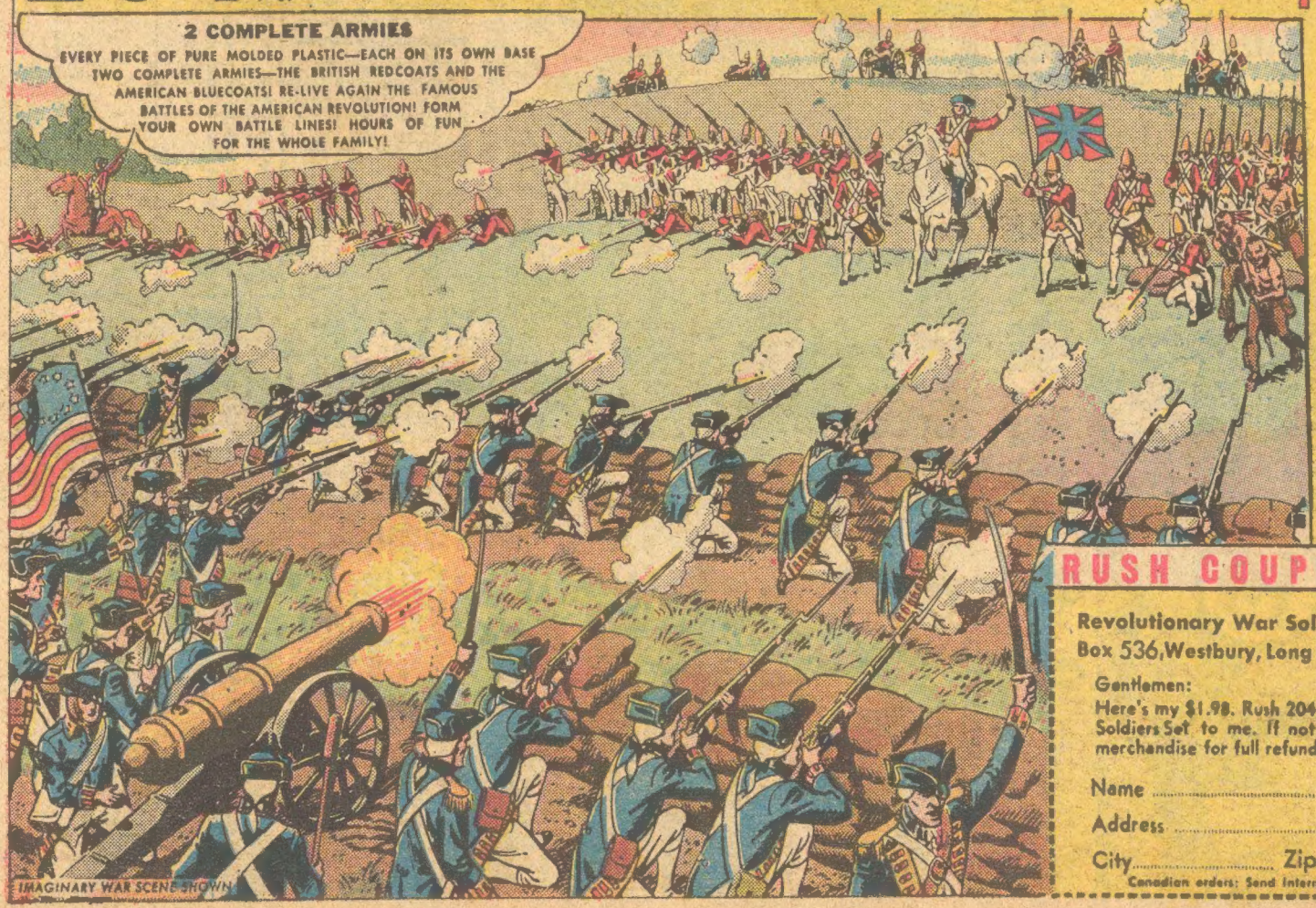

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